

H1N1 (SWINE FLU) VACCINE INFORMATION

Vaccine for H1N1 (formally Swine flu) is slowly becoming available for use. The following target groups of people are recommended to receive the vaccine when available:

1. pregnant women;
2. persons who live with or provide care for infants younger than 6 months of age;
3. healthcare and emergency medical services personnel;
4. individuals from 6 months to 24 years of age; and
5. individuals 25-64 years of age who have medical conditions (ex., asthma, hypertension, diabetes, HIV) that increase the risk of influenza-related complications.

If you are pregnant or parents of children **LESS** than six months of age, please call Jim Carroll, RN, Swain County Health Dept., at 488-3198 ext 2016, for vaccine availability. Although the vaccine may not be available on the day you call, you will be placed on a contact list when vaccine becomes available.

Parents who have children **OVER** six months of age, which are not in the Swain County School System, should contact your child's Pediatrician for vaccine availability at their office. If vaccine is unavailable through your child's Pediatrician, follow the same procedure as described above.

At this time, it is unclear when the H1N1 Vaccine will be available in sufficient amounts to vaccinate anyone who is in the target groups and want to be vaccinated. The plan from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is to have enough vaccine for everyone who wants to be vaccinated. Because of the manufacturing process, the unknown is **when** it will be available.

If you need further information, please contact Jim Carroll, RN, Swain County Health Department, at 488.3198 x 2016.